

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16117 131742Z

53

ACTION CU-03

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----- 048077

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9823
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: 1977-79 EXCHANGE PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS: IMPLEMENTING
CONDITIONS

REF STATE 250333

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON POINTS CONTAINED
REFTEL.

2. RE PARA 2: WE AGREE FULLY THAT EQUIVALENCY SHOULD BE
MAINTAINED IN AREA OF SUPPORT. IF RISING COSTS NECESSITATE
INCREASE OF STIPEND LEVEL FOR SCHOLARS IN U.S., U.S. SIDE
SHOULD CERTAINLY SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT HERE. WHILE
OUR SCHOLARS IN FACT DO NOT NEED MORE RUBLES, WE CONCUR
WITH DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT STIPEND LEVEL SHOULD BE USED
AS NEGOTIATING POINT TO GAIN OTHER BENEFITS FOR OUR
EXCHANGES. MOST USEFUL IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS
WOULD, IN OUR OPINION, BE ACHIEVED IF SOVIET SIDE WOULD
AGREE TO CHARGE NO MORE FOR HOUSING THAN FOR
ITS OWN CITIZENS. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO
ACHIEVE, BUT DEPT. SHOULD PUSH FOR AGREEMENT FOR SUCH AN
ARRANGEMENT FOR SCHOLARS AND DEPENDENTS STAYING IN HOTELS UNDER
CONTROL OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND MHE AND WHILE ON TRIPS
ARRANGED BY ACADEMY AND/OR UNIVERSITY INOTDEL AT A MINIMUM.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16117 131742Z

GETTING GENERAL SOVIET AGREEMENT TO CHARGE

EXCHANGEES SOVIET RATE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS ON TRIPS THEY
ARRANGE THEMSELVES WILL PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE
BUT IT COULD BE USEFUL AS AN INITIAL POSITION
IN NEGOTIATING ON THE ISSUE. THE KEY TO IMPROVING
CONDITIONS FOR EXCHANGEES IS NOT HAVING MORE MONEY BUT
RATHER ACCESS TO, AND THE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO,
PARTICULAR FACILITIES.

3. IF STIPEND LEVEL CANNOT BE USED TO ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENT
RE HOUSING CONDITIONS AND COSTS WE SUPPORT PROPOSAL TO
ATTEMPT TO USE IT AS MEANS OF SEEKING INCREASED SOVIET
FUNDING OF INTERNAL TRAVEL.

4. CONCUR FULLY IN DEPT'S VIEWS AND PROPOSED POSITIONS
CONTAINED THROUGHOUT REMAINDER OF REFTEL.
MATLOCK

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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